



CONSORTIUM OF FORENSIC SCIENCE ORGANIZATIONS (CFSO)

FLASH BRIEF

AUGUST 4, 2025

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice on behalf of its member organizations on matters of mutual interest regarding forensic science, to influence public policy at the national level, and to make a compelling case for greater federal funding for public crime laboratories and medical examiner and coroner offices. The primary focus of the CFSO is national, state, & local policymakers, as well as the United States Congress.

CFSO RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Law (HALT Fentanyl Law)

The Halt Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act has now been signed into law.

Summary: This law permanently classifies fentanyl-related substances into Schedule I under the Controlled Substances Act. A Schedule I controlled substance is a drug, substance, or chemical that has a high potential for abuse, has no currently accepted medical value, and is subject to regulatory controls and administrative, civil, and criminal penalties under the Act.

Under the law, offenses involving fentanyl-related substances are based on the same quantity thresholds and penalties as those involving fentanyl analogues. For example, offenses involving 100 grams or more of a fentanyl-related substance will trigger a mandatory minimum prison sentence of 10 years.

The legislation also implements several additional amendments to the registration requirements for conducting research involving controlled substances, including:

- permitting a single registration for related research sites in certain circumstances,
- waiving the requirement for a new inspection in certain situations, and
- allowing a registered researcher to perform certain manufacturing activities with small quantities of a substance without obtaining a manufacturing registration.

Finally, the law reflects that Congress agrees with the interpretation of the Controlled Substances Act in *United States v. McCray*, a 2018 case decided by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York. In that case, the court held that butyryl fentanyl, a controlled substance, can be considered an analogue of fentanyl even though, under the Controlled Substances Act, the term “*controlled substance analogue*” specifically excludes a controlled substance.

CFSO added the following documents to our website to provide you with more information:

Law Text ([link](#))

Section by Section ([link](#))

Law Fact Sheet ([link](#))

CONGRESSIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE CAUCUS

Every member of the United States House of Representatives can join the Forensic Science Caucus. We ask all forensic science practitioners to contact their Congressional House Representatives from their state and ask them to join the forensic science caucus. *Congressman Guest (R-MS) and Congressman Cleaver (D-MO) have again created the “Congressional Forensic Science Caucus”. Below is their description of the caucus and its mission:*

The Congressional Forensic Science Caucus is an informal Congressional Member of Congress group dedicated to issues related for forensic science and education other Members on this subject. The purpose of this bipartisan caucus is to educate Members of Congress on matters critical to the criminal justice system that pertain to forensics science and to advocate for legislation that ensures the sciences’ continuous advancement, wide availability to investigators and litigants, and compliance with the highest standards of quality assurance. Forensic science capabilities are changing rapidly, and Congress is often presented with legislation that addresses, for expel, the needs for further research, analyst training, and the implementation of new instrumentation and standards for its use. Our caucus serves as a forum to facilitate important information about these relevant topics and work to advance these significant issues.

The contacts for the caucus are:

- Rep. Michael Guest: Milton Robinson
- Rep. Cleaver: Devin Kelsey

NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK 2025

We invite you to join CFSO in celebrating National Forensic Science Week 2025. CFSO has a very active planning group that has introduced several new initiatives for this year.

The celebration is scheduled for September 14-20, 2025, and will begin with a Congressional national proclamation of the week, along with several CFSO presentations throughout the week. CFSO has partnered with NIST to host multiple forensic science webinars on technical topics relevant to forensic science practitioners.

This year also marks the inaugural selection of a “National Forensic Science High School Educator of the Year,” which will be awarded to a deserving high school forensic science teacher. Please see the [CFSO website](#) for the application and more information about this award. [Criteria and application information](#) on the CFSO website.

CFSO will also be active on all our social media platforms and our CFSO NFSW website. The website contains a wealth of information about hosting events, forensic science education, and advocacy efforts during the week. The CFSO website has been updated, and all the links verified. Please send us your state or local proclamations for the week, and we will post them on our website. Also, send us the details of events that you are hosting (especially virtual events), and we will promote them on our website. Please send these items to matthew.gamette@thecfso.org for posting on the CFSO website.

The three-fold mission of National Forensic Science Week is to 1) educate and engage policy makers and funders, 2) honor and recognize forensic science practitioners and educators for the excellent and dedicated work they perform, and 3) raise visibility and awareness of forensic science among stakeholders and community members.

3RD ANNUAL BJA FORENSICS PROGRAMS GRANTEES MEETING

Archive now available for on-demand viewing!

3rd Annual BJA Forensics Programs Grantees Meeting

Hosted: June 9-10, 2025

The Forensics Training and Technical Assistance (Forensics TTA) Team recently hosted the 3rd Annual BJA Forensics Programs Grantees Meeting on June 9-10, 2025. This virtual event

featured a wide range of plenary and program-specific workshop sessions that are now available for on-demand viewing. The archived event includes presentation recordings, PDFs of presenter slide decks, and accompanying resources. Most sessions were recorded for archival purposes; however, some sessions were not recorded and do not have an archive available due to presenter requests or the inclusion of sensitive content within the presentations. Sessions to which this applies are noted within the archive.

Accessing the Archive

1. To view the archived event, please navigate to the [3rd Annual BJA Forensics Programs Grantees Meeting](#) virtual event platform and log in with the same email address and password used to attend the live event. If you did not attend the live event and this is your first time logging in, you may need to create an account or [reset your password](#). If you need to create an account, please follow these instructions: Create a profile by following this link: <https://sso.forensicac.org/register/>.
2. Check your email to authenticate your profile. If you do not receive an email to your inbox, please check your spam folder. If you do not receive a verification email after checking your spam folder, please contact ForensicsTTA@rti.org.
3. Navigate to the [3rd Annual BJA Forensics Programs Grantees Meeting](#) virtual event platform using the password provided below to enroll in the course. **Please do not forward this password outside of your agency as it is not to be shared with non-BJA Forensics Programs Grantees.** If you experience password enrollment errors, please check that you did not copy and paste additional characters from this email.

a. Enrollment Password: 25BJAVGM

[Click Here to View the Archive!](#)

For more information please contact

The Forensics TTA Team
RTI International
ForensicsTTA@rti.org

RESOURCES FOR MEDICAL EXAMINER AND CORONER OFFICES

New Forensics Accreditation Document Repository for Medical Examiner & Coroner Offices!

A new Accreditation Document Repository for Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices has been released!

This repository provides a collection of example policies, procedures, and related documents to support Strengthening the Medical Examiner-Coroner (ME/C) System Program grantees in achieving accreditation through the International Association of Coroners & Medical Examiners (IACME) and the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME). As such, this resource is intended to be a practical resource not just for ME/C Program grantees, but for all ME/C offices across the United States.

While not exhaustive, the repository contains a wide variety of materials generously offered by offices that have successfully achieved accreditation. Documents are organized by ten primary categories (e.g., investigations, mass disaster plans/policies), with a secondary filtering option by accrediting body (e.g., IACME, NAME). Clicking on a post allows users to read more information about the example policies presented in that category and open the associated documents as desired.

Accredited ME/C offices interested in submitting additional materials are encouraged to email their documents to ForensicsTTA@rti.org.

Explore the repository today by clicking the link below and please contact the Forensics TTA team via ForensicsTTA@rti.org with any questions or suggestions you may have to help ensure this resource best fits your needs!

[Click Here to Access the Accreditation Document Repository for Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices!](#)

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS THINKING OF A CAREER IN FORENSIC SCIENCE

NAME has developed a resource page for students interested in a career in forensic pathology or forensic death investigation. Please visit <https://www.thename.org/ungraduates-and-medical-students> for more information.

CFSO ADVOCACY INFORMATION

CFSO Website <https://thecfso.org/>

Please see the CFSO [Federal Advocacy webpage](#) for information about our federal agency advocacy efforts

Please see the CFSO [119th Congress webpage](#) for information about current legislation